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E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/27/2016
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SUBJECT: HAITI ELECTIONS: SECURITY PLAN READY

Classified By: Deputy Chief of Mission Douglas M. Griffiths for reasons
1.4 (b) and (d)

¶1. (C) Election Day security plans remain on track, according to MINUSTAH's Chief of Elections Security and Planning, Neil Warriner. Despite rumors to the contrary, MINUSTAH UNPol and the Haitian National Police (HNP) will jointly patrol all voting centers, including those in Cite Soleil. Warriner on January 25 told poloff, "there will be no HNP without UNPol and no UNPol without HNP." Security planners will cover a small number of sites that serve limited numbers of voters with forces that will have a 30 minute response time. Warriner admitted that Cite Soleil remains a concern, both because of ongoing tension and the capacity of the Jordanian contingent.

¶2. (C) Warriner said the rumors regarding Cite Soleil sites stemmed from Jordanian objections to working in the heart of Cite Soleil. With voting centers moved to the periphery, the Jordanians had agreed to plans for joint patrols with the HNP. Warriner admitted that as long as the Jordanians were on the ground in Cite Soleil, MINUSTAH's capacity remained limited. MINUSTAH hoped to rotate the Jordanians after the first round of elections and replace them in Cite Soleil with a "South American triumvirate," of Brazilians, Argentines, and Chileans. Poor performance aside, the Jordanian contingent had served in Cite Soleil for over one year; it was time to move them to a quieter location.

¶3. (C) Warriner admitted to extreme frustration in having to alter arrangements for last minute changes in voting centers and related transport of election materials. Asked about cooperation between MINUSTAH and the HNP, Warriner responded that it would be "strong on election day and election day only."

¶4. (C) Comment. Since beginning detailed planning months ago, Warriner has been optimistic about election-day security, even while criticizing other aspects of MINUSTAH performance. MINUSTAH officials across the board recognize that Cite Soleil is their primary challenge and continue to focus efforts to improve the security atmosphere there in advance of February 7. While we do expect isolated instances of violence, we believe that the overall relative calm that predominates throughout the country, combined with the concentrated show-of-force MINUSTAH plans for election day,

will provide a security atmosphere sufficient for a
successful first round on February 7. End Comment.
CARNEY